



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNOUNCE ANNUAL SALE OF SURPLUS BIG-GAME ANIMALS

Animals surplus to the big-game herds on national wildlife refuges in Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, and Oklahoma are now being offered for sale, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the national wildlife refuge system, annually disposes of the normal herd increases so as to protect range conditions and prevent overgrazing. The Bureau maintains four fenced refuges for buffalo and elk where the animals run at large and live as nearly as possible under natural conditions.

The surplus disposal program for 1959 includes 303 buffaloes, 91 elk, and 110 longhorn cattle. Buffalo and elk may be purchased alive or butchered. Prices for these animals are generally higher this year as the result of the demand in the market.

The 82 surplus longhorn cattle on the Wichita Refuge, Cache, Okla., will be sold by a public auction on or about September 18. The 28 longhorns recommended for disposal from the Fort Niobrara Refuge, Valentine, Nebr., will be sold at a similar auction on October 15.

In selling the animals, the Bureau will give preference to applicants who wish to purchase them alive for propagation or exhibition. Surplus live animals not sold may be obtained by State, county, or municipal zoos, parks or game preserves desiring such animals for propagation or exhibition at the cost of capturing, crating, and transporting.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has no authority to donate animals to private individuals or to private institutions.

Persons desiring to purchase the animals alive may obtain them at the following prices which include the cost of corralling and delivering to the purchaser's truck or crate at the capturing corral on the preserve: Buffalo, under two years of age, \$140; elk, under two years of age, \$100.

Sportsmen desiring big-game roasts and steaks for club dinners and banquets can buy the butchered carcass of a buffalo, weighing about 450 pounds, for \$165, \$180, or \$200, depending upon the manner in which the carcass is processed and packaged. A half carcass will sell for \$80, \$90, or \$100. These are mature animals, 2 years or older. A whole elk, weighing from 250 to 300 pounds, will sell for \$100, \$120, or \$130; a half carcass, \$50, \$60, or \$65, depending on manner of processing and packaging. These animals are two years or older. All prices are f.o.b. at the refuge.

A leaflet containing complete details of the annual sale of surplus animals may be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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